

Remarks

Claims 1-91 were pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 10-14, 18-21, 29-31, 34, 35, 40-50, 55-75, 84, 85, and 88 were rejected. Claims 8, 9, 15-17, 22-28, 32, 33, 36-39, 51-54, 76-83, 86, 87, and 89-91 were objected to. Claims 1-91 are canceled. Claims 92-157 are added. Claims 92-157 are now pending. Claims 92, 95, 104, 105, 106, 119, 123, 128, 132, and 136 are the independent claims. Reconsideration of the amended application is respectfully requested.

The examiner required new corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.21(d). Corrected drawings are submitted herewith.

The examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 18-20, 29-31, 34, 35, 58, 59, 64, 65, 84, 85, and 88 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Cuijpers et al. The examiner also rejected claims 3-7, 10-14, 40-57, and 70-75 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cuijpers et al., in view of Armbruster et al.; claim 21 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cuijpers et al., in view of Hung; claim 61 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cuijpers et al., in view of Landa; claims 62 and 63 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cuijpers et al., in view of Thompson; and claims 60 and 66-69 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cuijpers et al. The examiner also objected to claims 8, 9, 15-17, 22-28, 32, 33, 36-39, 51-54, 76-83, 86, 87, and 89-91 as depending from a rejected base claim, but acknowledged that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-91 are canceled, and new claims 92-157 are added.

Independent claim 92 explicitly recites all of the features of objected claim 8, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 3-5. Claim 93 depends from claim 92 and recites the features of objected claim 9. Claim 94 depends from claim 92 and recites the features of claim 2. It is submitted that new claims 92-94 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Independent claim 95 explicitly recites all of the features of objected claim 15, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 3-5 and 14. Claim 96 depends from claim 95 and recites the features of objected claim 16. Claims 97-103 depend from claim 95 and recite the features of claims 6, 7, 10-13, and 2, respectively. It is submitted that new claims 95-103 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Independent claim 104 explicitly recites all of the features of objected claim 17, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 3-5. It is submitted that new claim 104 is allowable over the cited prior art.

Independent claim 105 explicitly recites all of the features of objected claim 51, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 3-7, 40, 41, 44, and 50. It is submitted that new claim 105 is allowable over the cited prior art.

Independent claim 106 explicitly recites all of the features of objected claim 52, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 3-7, 40, 41, 44, and 50. Claims 107 and 108 depend from claim 106 and recite the features of objected claims 53 and 54, respectively. Claims 109-118 depend from claim 106 and recite the features of claims 42, 43, 45-49, and 55-57, respectively. It is submitted that new claims 106-118 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Independent claim 119 explicitly recites all of the features of objected claim 22, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 18 and 21. Claims 120-122 depend from claim 119 and recite the features of objected claims 23-25, respectively. It is submitted that new claims 119-122 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Independent claim 123 explicitly recites all of the features of objected claim 26, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 18 and 21. Claims 124 and 125 depend from claim 123 and recite the features of objected claims 27 and 28, respectively. Claims 126 and 127 depend from claim 123 and recite the features of claims 19 and 20, respectively. It is submitted that new claims 123-127 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Independent claim 128 explicitly recites all of the features of objected claim 32, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 18 and 21. Claim 129 depends from claim 128 and recites the features of objected claim 33. Claims 130 and 131 depend from claim 128 and recite the features of claims 34 and 35, respectively. It is submitted that new claims 128-131 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Independent claim 132 explicitly recites all of the features of objected claim 36, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 18 and 29-31. Claims 133-135 depend from claim 132 and recite the features of objected claims 37-39. It is submitted that new claims 132-135 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Independent claim 136 explicitly recites all of the features of objected claim 76, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 64 and 70-72. Claims

137 and 138 depend from claim 136 and recite the features of objected claims 77 and 78, respectively. Claims 139-146 depend from claim 136 and recite the features of claims 65-69 and 72-75, respectively. Claims 147-151 depend from claim 136 and recite the features of objected claims 79-83, respectively. Claims 152-157 depend from claim 136 and recite the features of claims 58-63, respectively. It is submitted that new claims 136-157 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that all objections and rejections have been overcome. It is therefore requested that the Amendment be entered, the claims allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



December 20, 2006

Date

Thomas M. Champagne
Registration No. 36,478
IP STRATEGIES
12 ½ Wall Street
Suite I
Asheville, North Carolina 28801
828.253.8600
828.253.8620 fax

TMC:hlp